





Glen Turner, past president of the Utah Valley Old Car Club, has 4 other antique cars besides his 1926 LaSalle.

# Old Car Club members make hobby a big matter of family togetherness

By Jerrie S. Fackrell  
Deseret News correspondent

SPRINGVILLE — Restoring and driving antique cars is more than just a hobby for members of the Utah Valley Old Car Club, it becomes a means of drawing family members closer.

Wayne Atkinson, this year's club president, said the thing he enjoys most about the Utah chapter of the old car club is the fact that it is a family-oriented chapter.

He said he has attended other clubs in which families were not welcomed because the members party a lot.

"But in this club we take our families to all the parades and monthly club functions with the exception of one weekend event that is planned for just the husband and wife."

Every year includes a week-long trip taken by the family members, each driving their own antique car, to different parts of Utah: Dinosaur Land, Moab, Kanab, Canyonlands, Glen Canyon, Bryce Canyon and St. George.

"We always put the slowest car in front when we go on a trip as a club and make the rule that no one is allowed to pass the lead car," Atkinson said. "This ensures that everyone travels together."

Members are usually not satisfied with just owning one vehicle. The average is three or four. One member has 150 cars, several members have 10, 15 or 20 cars, and nearly all members have more than one antique car.

Glen Turner, past president of the club, has four cars — a 1926 Model T Ford, a 1917 Dodge, a 1940 Dodge, a 1929 LaSalle (his pride and joy) and a 1956 Thunderbird. He also sports a Henderson four-cylinder motorcycle and a Harley Davidson.

Turner started with one car then I decided I wanted to restore a car for each one of my children.

Turner's LaSalle took years of collecting and two years of restoration, but he said it was worth it. It won third place in the Class National the past year.

"All winning vehicles in the nationals were restored by professionals. I restored my own," Turner said with pride.

Members of the club praised Turner's "super job" in restoring vehicles.

"Some people are good at body work, some do upholstery, some are good at motor work, but Glen is good at everything. If he needs a part and cannot locate it, Glen can cast an identical replica to hold over until the original can be found," one member said.

Restoring cars is an exciting pastime, as any member of the club will affirm. Parts can be found in the most unexpected places.

Turner said that when he was restoring his 1926 LaSalle he was missing the brass section above the window. One day a friend called and

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said he had found an old LaSalle buried in the dirt while they were building the diagonal between Provo and Orem.

"The only piece that was any good on the entire car was the brass section I needed."

The Utah Valley Old Car Club is a people-oriented car club. "Wherever we go we have instant friends," Atkinson said. People always come up to talk to them, and many share their own experiences with similar cars.

"Once, following a parade in a small southern Utah community, we parked the cars for display, and an elderly lady walked around each of the cars, rubbing her hands and shaking her head in a 'yes' fashion, saying, 'Yes, sir, I made love inside every one of these old cars during my youth.'"

This is the 20th year for the Utah Valley

Club. Atkinson is serving his second term as president; he served his first term 20 years ago as first president of the club.

He is one of the five original members of the club started in 1965. "We organized the club because several people around were interested in old cars enough to form a club," Atkinson said.

The club reached a peak of 50 members; it now has 47.

"There seems to be a major influx of new members this past year, new interest and activity in older cars," Atkinson said.

"The club has been geared to 1932 and older cars, even though some members also have cars in the 40's and 50's."

The club members usually try to drive in the small-town parades in Utah.

"We enjoy parades in smaller towns and avoid larger towns because the parades in the larger towns are usually longer, hot and slow-moving," Atkinson said. "Besides, people in the smaller towns appreciate us more and we seem to have more fun."

Atkinson said it usually takes over 1,000 man-hours to complete one restored vehicle. It usually costs between \$3,000 and \$5,000 if a person does all the work himself. If he hires the work done, restoration of one vehicle can cost as much as \$80,000.

Reminiscing on his own experiences in old-car restoration, Atkinson tells of some of the various places parts for antique cars have been found — in the sagebrush fields; in trash yards; in streams, creeks and lakes; in old barns; and buried in dirt.

Everyone in the club keeps their eyes open for all types of antique parts in case the part they find may help a club member with their restoration projects.

"We make it a policy to never sell parts at a profit. We either give the part or sell it for what we have in it, or we trade it for a part we need ourselves."

"We are just like one big happy family, all interested in the same things: family and cars."



# Good players abound on Ore

**By Paul Farmer**

Deseret News correspondent

OREM — It will be a deep Orem team that enters the state American Legion tournament Saturday in Salt Lake City.

"I feel we have a good bench," Orem coach Gerry Cooper said. "I can field nine (players) and have four on the bench who can do an adequate job."

Orem's final regular-season game provided a good case in point. Gary Cameron came off the bench to deliver a key two-run single and later socked the game-winning home run in the bottom of the seventh. Robert Simpson also entered the game late to deliver a sixth-inning double.

## Ball club gets into swing to prepare for state American Legion tourney

"We don't play nine," Cooper said. "We have a 14-man team."

Pitching is another area in which the team has depth. Left-handers Cameron, Steve Foote and Chris Cooper and right-handers Kyle Hoover and Derek Fackrel provide Orem with plenty of arms for a lengthy tournament.

And with several opponents forfeiting late in the season, "all of our pitchers are well-rested," Cooper said.

"If you happen to get out and get good

pitching," the Orem coach said, "I think anyone can win the tournament one game at a time. You have to play one game at a time. That's our plan."

Because Orem finished in a first-place tie with Helper for the Central Utah league championship, a coin flip will decide how the two teams will be bracketed in the state tournament.

"I don't see any advantage of playing (as number) one or two," Cooper said. "You still have to win your games."

# Cameron's homer gives Orem vital l

OREM — Gary Cameron's home run off a pine tree over the center field fence was a big one for Orem.

The leadoff roundtripper in the bottom of the seventh lifted Orem to a 9-8 win over Helper on Tuesday. But more importantly, it moved Orem into a tie for first place in the American Legion's Central Utah league. Both teams sport 10-2 records and will advance to the state championship, with games to begin Saturday in Salt Lake City.

Chris Cooper got Orem on the board in the first inning with a one-out single that drove in Tim Berns. Cooper later scored on a wild pitch after a Brad Eagar double had advanced him to third.

Helper wasted no time in cutting the lead as Mike Smuin homered with a man aboard in the top of the second to tie the score at 2-2. The visitors then took the lead in the third on a run-scoring double by Chad Bianco.

A second double by Eagar in the third tied the game once more, and an error allowed another run to score to give the lead back to Orem at 4-3.

Smuin again proved to be a thorn in Orem's side in the fourth. He beat out an infield hit and later scored on a double by Andy Powell to tie the contest at 4-4.

With three runs in the fifth, Orem appeared to take control of the game. Cameron came off the

bench to deliver a two-run hit single. Kyle Hoover then in Cameron with a double to center. Orem added a run in the sixth on a towering home run by Cooper.

But Cooper's luck was about to turn sour. After Hoover, surrendered no walks and no hits in six innings, gave up a lead in the seventh, Cooper was called in to relieve. Before he could get a pitch, the roof caved in on him. He was



PHOTOGRAPHY/GARY McKELLA

A season of racing at Suntana Speedway has left its marks — and dents — on one of the stock cars.

# Rivals seeking Suntana supremacy

# **Feb. 26, 1926**

**Star Cars — Without whip or goad or sweat or strain, the Star Car delivers great power — constant and untiring. Power that levels hills, that plows through mud or sand, that shortens the miles and lengthens daylight hours. Durant Motor, Inc. New York.**

noon, that was reported as a wild-land fire, but turned out to be just a man burning rubber off copper, causing a lot of smoke.

That evening, Davis and a couple of other fireman investigated a report of a fire in Daniels, and found a man burning some debris behind his house. Davis said the man claimed he didn't know he wasn't supposed to burn, which Davis called, "hogwash," noting the restriction on fires has been widely publicized. "We really let him have it," said Davis.